



NENA NEWS

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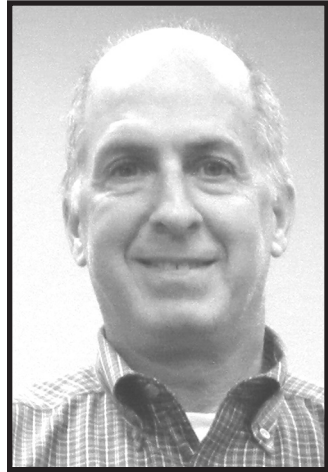
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President's Comments

by **William Harkins**



Iwould like to start by thanking you our members for your support, through your membership and donations. We would also like to thank those who contribute to this newsletter with your news articles and advertisements, it is greatly appreciated.

We started this year like every other year planning our meetings and events and then the pandemic hit. Our world came to a halt with meetings and shows suddenly canceled and our lives turned on end with the uncertainty and fear of the virus. As this year comes to a close and the promise of several new vaccines to eradicate the virus I am optimistic that 2021 will be a much better year and we will once again be able to resume our regular activities.

We held our Convention in conjunction with the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo in October but due to the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions our only presence was the Club Table. Although masks and social distancing were required it was refreshing to be able to participate and once again meet face to face with fellow numismatist. We recently held the election for officers with the current board agreeing to another term. Bob Fritsch and John Ferreri filled the two vacant Director positions. Thank You!

If you haven't visited our website lately please do the site has been updated with information pertaining to our activities, Club listings and announcements. There is also a link to the Newman Numismatic Portal where our archives can be found, click on NENA's history tab. For more information visit us at www.nenacoin.org.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we may better serve you, please let us know. You may email me at williamharkins@comcast.net or by mail NENA, P.O. Box 2061, Woburn, MA 01888.

Sincerely

William Harkins

*We wish everyone a
Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous,
Healthy New Year.*

Roman Architecture and the Greatest Circus

By: Benjamin D. R. Hellings¹

In the fall of 2017, the Yale University Art Gallery received ten remarkable Roman coins as a gift from Ben Lee Damsky.² Close study of the gift highlights Damsky's collecting interests; one cannot help but recognize his fascination with coin types depicting architecture, of which he owns exceptionally high-quality and varied examples.³

Students studying ancient coinage quickly learn that architectural features rarely appear on Greek coins. Rather, representations of the built world on coinage was a Roman phenomenon that has whetted numismatic interest since the Renaissance, creating a subfield commonly referred to as *architectura numismatica*. Many of the same questions exist today as in the Renaissance: What is being depicted? Is it depicted accurately? When was it built? And lastly, why was it placed on a coin? The value of architectural representations on coins should not be underestimated. They are often the sole remaining evidence for the appearance or existence of a monument or building, thereby shaping our insight into daily life in the ancient world and appealing to numismatists, archaeologists, topographers, and art and architectural historians. Many scholars have been justifiably engrossed by the minute details of the buildings themselves, such as pediment decorations. These details, engraved into the coin die in reverse and at such a minuscule size, warrant admiration since they rarely survive on most coins. They do, however, appear clearly on the Damsky specimens, permitting deep appreciation of the artistic skill behind their production. Despite their appeal, the coins and architectural representations on them should not be studied in isolation; rather, they must be considered in their wider contexts in order for one to fully apprehend

their subtle details. Without an understanding of the historical context, the significance of each coin and of the decision to portray a particular structure loses meaning. The rest of this article will be devoted to showcasing the iconography of some miniature *monumenta* and their cultural and historical contexts.⁴

Arguably the best coin from the ten gifted by Damsky is a sestertius (fig. 1) that depicts the Circus Maximus, the “greatest circus”—one of the most remarkable Roman structures ever built and portrayed on its coinage. Today, very little remains of the once impressive structure, but one can still appreciate its enormous dimensions; by comparison, the arena of the Colosseum can fit twelve times into that of the Circus Maximus. Its origin was modest, and it supposedly dates to the reign of the first Etruscan king of Rome, Lucius Tarquinius Priscus (r. 616–579 BC) who built a wooden perimeter and seating at the Circus for Rome’s elite, while his grandson, Tarquinius Superbus (r. 535–509 BC), expanded the capacity of the structure by adding seats for plebeians. Over the course of six centuries several aggrandizement projects were undertaken, slowly transforming the Circus Maximus from its humble wooden beginnings into a monumental structure capable of hosting new and more extravagant events and *ludi* (public games connected to Roman religious festivals). These included four-horse (*quadrigae*) or two-horse (*bigae*) chariot races, horseback races, athletics (boxing, wrestling, and running), wild beast hunts, gladiatorial games, staged battles, and processions.



Sestertius of Trajan, Rome, AD 103–11. Orichalcum, 26.26 g, 6:00, 33 mm. Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Ben Lee Damsky, 2018.65.1.

This coin was probably struck to celebrate the emperor Trajan’s (r. AD 98–117) restoration of the Circus, which he started in about AD 100 and completed three years later. During the work, most of the structure was reconstructed in brick-faced concrete and

Continued on next page

stone, while the seating tiers became steeper and taller. Trajan's renovation, however, only increased capacity by a mere five thousand spectators, raising it to approximately 150,000. After Trajan's works, the Circus changed very little until the reign of Caracalla (r. AD 198–217). The coin therefore documents the Circus's architectural features at the height of the Roman Empire.

From an aerial vantage point, the die engravers skillfully represented several impressive facets of the Circus. Standing in the middle of the arena and *spina* (the long barrier in the center) is the 132-foot-high obelisk, once dedicated to Ramesses the Great in Egypt, which was re-erected by Augustus in 10 BC. Today, the obelisk stands at the Piazza del Popolo in Rome, where Pope Sixtus V moved it in 1589. At each end of the *spina* are three *metae* (turning posts). Depicted on the left side of the obelisk is a statue of the goddess Cybele riding a lion, while the right side shows a pair of columns with a beam supporting dolphins, used to count the laps during races. Immediately behind the obelisk stands a temple of Sol, identifiable through the cult image on the roof with his radiating head, while at the left is the Arch of Titus. Finally, on the right end are two additional arches surmounted by *quadrigae*, providing access to the galleries and seating, where some gallery boxes are discernible. Rarely is a coin of this type intricate enough to enable such a detailed description. This Damsky piece is exceptional because it is the single most detailed specimen known to survive that depicts one of the most important structures of the Eternal City.⁵

1 Jackson-Tomasko Associate Curator of Numismatics, Yale University Art Gallery.

2. This is an abridged version of the paper: 'Ben Lee Damsky's Collection of Miniature Monumenta', in *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* 2018, 74–79.

3 For a general overview of the collection, see William E. Metcalf, 'The Ben Lee Damsky Collection', in *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin: Recent Acquisitions* 2008, 98–105.

4 Nathan T. Elkins, *Monuments in Miniature: Architecture on Roman Coinage*, Numismatic Studies 29 (New York: American Numismatic Society, 2015), 1–13; and Martin J. Price and Bluma L. Trell, *Coins and Their Cities: Architecture on the Ancient Coins of Greece, Rome, and Palestine* (London: V. C. Vecchi, 1977), 15–52.

5 For a full treatment of the Circus Maximus and other circuses, see John H. Humphrey, *Roman Circuses: Arenas for Chariot Racing* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986).

Visiting Our Advertisers

See their ads on various pages of this issue of the "News".

Colony Coin: You might have driven by the front door of Colony Coin a hundred times and have not seen it. That was probably because you were traveling 65 mph about 50 feet away on the Mass Turnpike. Colony Coin "overlooks" the Mass. "Pike", literally! Bowers Street in Newtonville, Mass. was stripped of the homes on the north side when the "Pike" was built. What was left was a backwater of a street with just enough parking to satisfy 3-4 numismatists in front of the shop. Step inside and meet Harvey! That is, after you first make an appointment unless you are feeling lucky and catch him there on the few times a week he opens for the public. The shop is owned by Arthur Fitts (retired) and Harvey Fenton is the gatekeeper and has been for 40+ years. Colony Coin's service to the collector is unparalleled. While dealing in many aspects of collecting, their focus has always been on collector quality coins. Arthur recently was voted in to the ANA's Hall of Fame. The story appears on Pg. #31 of Issue #3, 2019.

Coins N' Gold Exchange: From Newtonville we travel to Portland, Connecticut and visit this pleasantly updated and tidy cottage right on the main route from Portland to Marlborough. You can't miss the sign! Stop in and ask for Don. He will be glad to help you find what you want. A large part of his business is in buying and selling gold coins and jewelry and a sub-specialty is paper money. Don has over 30 years experience in the coin business. Stop in anytime! Don would like to meet you. You may also find Don at various Sunday shows in southern New England.

Steve's Coins: From Portland we drive north to Rockville, Connecticut but we won't find a location for Steve's, here. You will only find him at most of the better local New England shows and at many of the regional and national conventions. Steve's is a bulk buyer of proof and mint sets and as his ad states, he specializes in estate liquidations. Steve is a long time dealer in silver and gold coins and it doesn't end there! Coin rarities and paper money are also a large part of his business. After reading his ad in this issue, stop by his table for either buying or selling gold

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Visiting Our Advertisers Continued

or silver. Steve has been in this business for over 35 years! Steve also attends numerous Sunday Shows in the southern New England area and larger regional shows and last summer traveled to Hong Kong to attend an International show.

Higleyville Coin Company: Now, on to Simsbury, Connecticut and Higleyville Coin Company whose name was taken from the Higley Copper Mine in Granby, the town next door. This was the site and source of metallic copper used for the Higley Coppers, privately minted in the 1730's and valued up to 3 pence. Robert Kevorkian, the proprietor, mostly sets up business at local Connecticut, Massachusetts and regional coin shows but also has a department for this business in his pharmacy in Simsbury. Bob has been in this business for over 30 years and is interested in buying local issues of colonial era lottery tickets and tokens. See his ad in this issue for address and phone number. Bob has been a long time supporter of local coin clubs and their shows often offering to buy up any unsold table space for his own use.

Kay Coins International: Art Kay's business may be headquartered in Mesa, Arizona but his reach is worldwide! Art currently keeps over 20,000 coins in inventory. If Art doesn't have it, he'll find it for you! He is always looking for better International Coins and buys and sells through the mails as he has been for 50+ years. Both Art and his stock have pedigrees!

Art recently shared a story with us: while he was in Atlanta he lost his issue of Nena News. It was soon returned to him via the mails along with an order for two coins from the woman who found it. What more could you ask for?

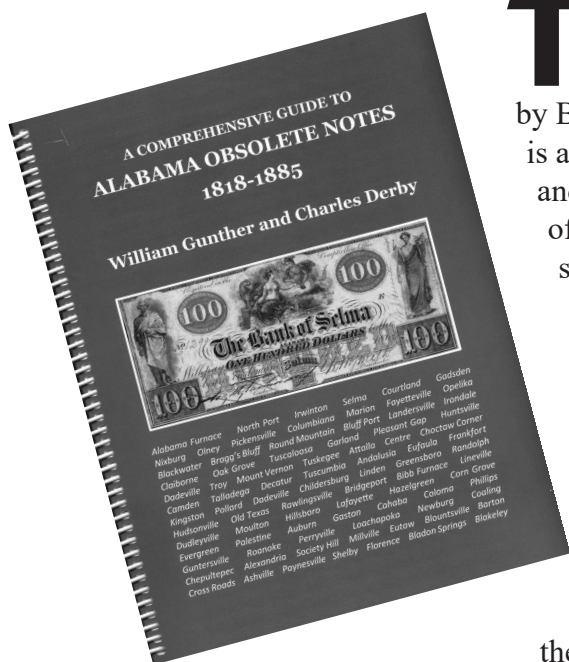
Ask Art to place you on his mailing list for up to date offerings (akay7934@aol.com). Art always needs new stock so check with him when wanting to sell!

Stacks-Bowers Galleries: Whether it be building or selling a fine specialized collection, you should contact this auction house. They have catalogued many of the finest collections of coins and paper money sold. Their offices may be found in New York, California, Hong Kong and Wolfeboro, NH. It is a pleasant ride to Wolfeboro and certainly it will be a pleasant experience. It will be best to call ahead to schedule an appointment. They do have a retail store in NYC at 123 West 57th Street. See their ad in the centerfold of any issue! Couple this trip with a relaxing boat tour on Lake Winnepesaukee.

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Book Review: A Comprehensive Guide to Alabama Obsolete Notes 1818-1885

By: William Gunther and Charles Derby



This pleasantly illustrated, 8 ½ x 11 inch, 286 page, spiral bound and in color catalogue by Bill Gunther and Charles Derby is an excellent guide to bank note and private issues prior to those of the national banks of Alabama starting in 1865. This listing is intended to encompass issues by the State of Alabama and private issuers from the 1818 Territorial era issues to the 1885 Reconstruction issues. The quality images of the notes are in color and arranged first by National issues (Second Bank of the United States) and then the

State issues and Other Issues. The Other Issues are listed in alphabetical order by City and then within the City, alphabetical by Issuer. This makes for a pleasantly structured way to search for particular issuers.

The rarity scale used for the notes mimics the R1-R7 scale (here referred to as the Rosene Scale) commonly used in various publications of state bank notes over the past 40-50 years. Most collectors of obsolete notes are familiar with this rarity scale.

This book is also augmented with maps of Alabama counties in 1820, 1830 and the 1850s and a cross reference list of the Rosene/Criswell to the Gunther-Derby catalog numbers. This book will give the collector a base of over 1500 listings of notes, most of which are illustrated, to have on hand for his or her research. The price of the book is \$49.95. For more information or to order, please contact: charlesderbyga@yahoo.com 📧

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The Historic Confederate Reverse and the 1961 NENA Medal

*By: Dennis Fortier
Vice President Liberty Seated Collectors Club*



1961 NENA Medal Obverse



1961 NENA Medal Reverse

In a recent issue of NENA News there was a request for articles that pertained to NENA history. As most of you know NENA has been making medals for many years. I recently purchased a 1961 NENA medal with a rendition of the famous Confederate half dollar reverse of 1861. As a Liberty Seated Half Dollar collector that medal called to me as an inexpensive addition to my collection with local flavor. This medal, combined with the request for articles of NENA history as well as an article just published in the Liberty Seated Collectors Club's Gobrecht Journal (#134) pertaining to Bashlow restrikes from 1962 all led me to research and write this article. I became interested in connecting the dots from the original four Confederate Half dollars thru the Scott restrikes of the 1880's to the Bashlow restrikes of 1962 and of course the 1961 NENA medal.

The story of the Confederate Half Dollar Reverse begins with the state of Louisiana succeeding from the Union January 26, 1861. Once Louisiana succeeds, the U.S. Mint in New Orleans is taken over by the state of Louisiana along with all the silver and gold bullion on hand. Louisiana and the Confederacy in need of

Continued on next page

hard currency continued to mint coins, specify half dollars and double eagles. Our story however centers on the silver half dollar.

The 1861-O Liberty Seated Half Dollar is a very historic issue with three coining authorities, The United States, The State of Louisiana, and The Confederacy. All 1861-O Liberty Seated half dollars with the exception of the four Confederate Reverse half dollars say United States of America as they were produced with the dies on hand. Making die's that say Confederate States of America would have to wait, so all Louisiana and Confederate 1861-O half dollars were identical in every respect (except for die diagnostics) to Union produced coins.

A complete die marriage study by noted Liberty Seated Half Dollar expert, Randy Wiley, was published in Gobrecht Journals #94 and #97, and again in Bill Bugert's "*A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Vol VI, New Orleans 1853-O WA to 1861-O.*" All fifteen die marriages are identified not only diagnostically, but by coining authority, and estimated mintages as well. These scholarly articles can be found on the Newman Portal at: [https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic&tab=collection?and\[\]=Gobrecht Journal](https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic&tab=collection?and[]=Gobrecht Journal), and Bill Bugert's Register can be found on the Liberty Seated Collectors Club website at: <http://www.lsc-cweb.org/>

In the early days of the war spirits ran high for a great Southern victory. For certain individuals at the mint the Confederate States were an independent nation and therefore it was necessary to produce their own Confederate coins, not just copy U.S. coins. So it was decided to mint Confederate silver half dollars. The first thing everyone (*author: in the south*) recognized was that Miss Liberty was a southern belle, not a Yankee, so her image as it appeared on the U.S. half dollar could also appear on the Confederate coin, meaning that a new obverse die would not have to be created. Manufacturing the (reverse) die would be the hardest and most technically challenging aspect of coining. In early April 1861 a new die was created for the reverse side of the coin and four of the coins were struck and given to four individuals. The idea was that the coins would be examined and a decision made as to whether

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production would continue with that design.(1) About this time coin production was halted at the New Orleans Mint so no further Confederate reverse half dollars were produced. This made the four Confederate reverse half dollars the famous rarities that they are today.

The reverse design of the Confederate half dollar has a shield with seven stars, representing the seceding States; above the shield is a liberty cap, and entwined around it stalks of sugar cane and cotton. The legend is: "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA," and the denomination of "Half Dollar" complete the design elements. The dies were engraved by A.H.M. Peterson, engraver and die sinker, and prepared for the coining press by Conrad Schmidt, foreman of the coining room, from which four pieces only were struck. The half dollar die was of such high relief that it was impractical for use in a coining press. From this die four pieces were struck by successive blows of a screw press. The successive blows of a screw press gave the coins sharp definition and deeply reflective surfaces, and most numismatists classify them as proofs today. Of course, high-speed coinage was impossible under these circumstances.(1)

From a historical perspective the Confederate reverse is awe inspiring, however from a purely artistic stand point its design is rather lackluster. This bland design coupled with the egregious error of making a die that was unusable with a modern coin press is understandable when you consider the workmen making this die were unaccustomed to performing this task. All dies were normally made at the Philadelphia Mint.

The first of these Confederate half dollars was sold, along with the die, in 1879 to John W. Scott. The die was not in the best condition but Scott cleaned it up and decided to produce some restrikes. Since he didn't have a die for the Miss Liberty face of the coin, he produced 500 tokens with the Confederate side and a message on the front that this was a restrike from an original die. This worked well, so he decided to produce 500 coins resembling the originals. Since he didn't have the Miss Liberty die, he obtained 500 original 1861 half dollars, shaved the backs smooth,

and then used the Confederate die to strike an image on the shaved surface. The result was a real 1861 U.S. half dollar that appears to be a Confederate half dollar although of slightly less weight due to the shaving of the back and with a slightly flattened Miss Liberty image because of pressure during the restrike. (2) According to Liberty Seated Half Dollar expert Bill Bugert, there are to his certain knowledge four Scott restrikes with the famous CSA obverse die crack.

Technically, a restrike is a coin (or medal or token) struck from original dies but at a later date. Restrikes are the oddities of rare coins. They are not originals and yet many restrikes are as avidly collected as the real thing. In some cases, restrikes exist of coins for which no originals (or very few originals) exist. (3) A transfer die is a die made from a genuine coin. A genuine coin is used to create a die that is an exact mirror image of the coin. (4)

In 1962 Robert Bashlow had his Bashlow Restrikes made from transfer dies by August C. Frank & Company of Philadelphia PA. In this instance, a transfer die was made from an actual Scott – Proskey Restrike or Token Confederate reverse. (5) These Restrikes were made in Silver, Bronze, and Goldline (Brass). The reverse of the restrike states mintages of 5,000 silver, 20,000 bronze, and 5,000 Goldline.

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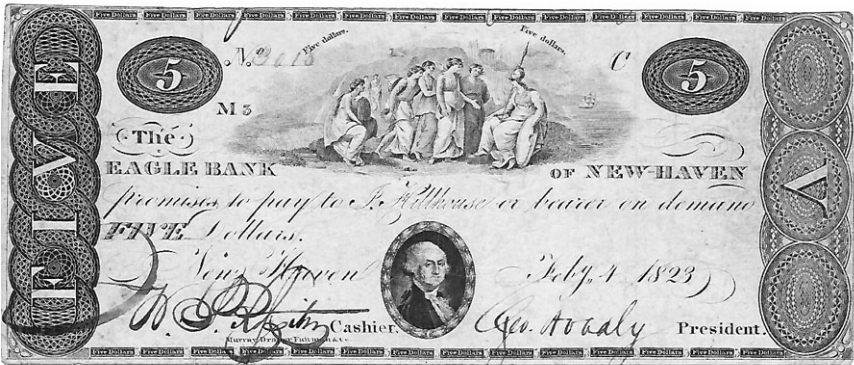
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Eagle Bank of New Haven

By: C. John Ferreri



The above note was payable "on demand" as were most notes of the obsolete era. The vignette, rife with Greek Mythology shows the muses approaching Athena, while on Mount Helicon while the horse, Pegasus can be seen rearing back, ready to gallop away.

The Eagle Bank led a rip-roaring life. Opening its doors on January 1st, 1812 it soon ushered in this country's newest war. Undeterred by the British conscription of its sailor community or the blockade of its shoreline it found ways to do business and most importantly, issue scrip (its own banknotes) the real lifeblood of banks during the State Banking Era. Each of its absurdly numerous issues proudly displayed a majestic eagle, the standard for its name.



This note was payable only at the Phenix Bank in New York City, a two day ride by horse from New Haven but maybe far enough away to deter some holders from redeeming their notes.

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Eagle Bank of New Haven Continued

The bank kept up a façade of solvency and trustworthiness by ever increasing the number of its outstanding issues and finding other banks to act as redemption centers for its notes. When there were no others in awe in the New Haven area it solicited banks in New York City.



Three of the bank's issues show the "supposed" bank building in various stages of development and its proximity to New Haven's premier Tontine Hotel in a bizarre example of subliminal suggestion of "continuous growth", probably intended to attract investors.

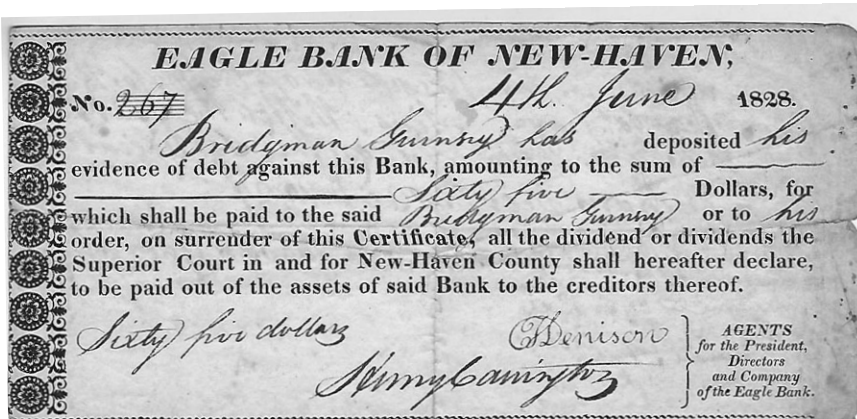
It issued "Demand" notes and "Post" notes and notes payable only at other New York banks. Toward the end of its 10-11 year tenure it even issued a series of three notes, each showing the progress of its new grandiose bank building. Starting with the \$1 bill of its last series of notes in 1825 it displayed this building, the opening salvo for an ever growing structure. The \$2 note not only showed this bank building but also a string of row-house seemingly attached to the bank. And finally, on the \$5 note, showing not only the above described structures but also at the other end of the block, the Tontine Hotel, New Haven's 1820's version of today's modern Marriott. All this panache, only to give the impression of solvency, growth and progress to the holders of its currency.

The bank finally collapsed late in 1825 taking with it the life of other local banks, many mercantile businesses and the total amount of the Yale College endowment along with the trust of many New Haveners.



Continued on next page

Although it may have been started, the bank building pictured on these notes was never actually finished. It vanished from history the same as many thousands of dollars of its depositors hard earned money. The only remaining parts of its edifice may be viewed at the Samuel Wadsworth Russell house in Middletown, Connecticut. The stately columns once intended to support the bank's portico were eventually used on this home.



\The last piece of paper issued on behalf of the bank was from the bankruptcy agents and given as a receipt to those who could prove that the Eagle Bank remained indebted to them should anything of value ever be salvaged from this financial mess!

These images show us a moment of history captured on early banknotes of New Haven . Collecting old banknotes such as these, along with the stories to be unmasked, are two of the rewarding aspects of collecting obsolete paper money. One never knows what juicy anecdote will be uncovered while searching for the story behind the images seen above. 📖

Nena Medals Wanted

1952 10K Gold

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1959 Sterling Silver

1969 Gold

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The Inshore Mackerel Fishery

By Walt Wiegand

Cape Ann to the north of Boston was the home of a leading US fishing port of the antebellum period. From there Gloucester vessels sailed to the deep-water fishing grounds at Georges Bank and beyond for cod and other commercially important varieties. In those years the success of the local fishing industry rose and fell and the most sought-after variety varied. However, by mid-century mackerel had surpassed cod and all other varieties to become the most valuable catch of the Gloucester fleet. In 1859, the landing of mackerel amounted to over 59,000 barrels- and by dollar value it exceeded that of the codfish catch by 83%! At that date a total of 332 vessels and upwards of 3400 men were employed in the fisheries. That and much more on the history of the Gloucester industry is in *The Fishermen's Own Book*, (1882) published there by the Proctor Brothers.

Typically the mackerel were of one to 2 pounds and a foot or a bit more in length. In the springtime, they travelled in huge schools up the East coast from warmer winter waters to their summer spawning grounds in the Gulf of St Lawrence. In season, a fleet of fishing schooners out of the port of Gloucester might net many hundreds at a time in nearby waters within sight of land.



Continued on next page

On its way to becoming the largest fishing port in the US and with about 50 companies involved with the fisheries, it was time for Gloucester to have a second bank. **The Bank of Cape Ann** was incorporated in 1856 and opened in 1857.



Most of its banknotes have vignettes that proudly depict the town's connection to the sea. Its \$1 note has a lighthouse on the distant shore with a fleet of schooners in the nearby bay waters. In the foreground is a fishing vessel with the crew holding one edge while men in a seine boat spread the net away from the boat. Similar activities are seen in the distance. By such methods the tightly schooled mackerel were captured in large numbers.



This rarely encountered fishing fleet vignette likely was custom made for the bank. It was engraved by Joselyn, Draper, Welsh & Co. whose imprint along with that of the American Bank Note Company appears on early issues.

In 1865, the **Bank of Cape Ann** was succeeded by the *Cape Ann National Bank of Gloucester* which continued to serve the local community for many years...and of course Gloucester remains an important East Coast commercial fishing center to this day. 📌

The Best Half Dollars, and the Most Affordable

By: Mark Benvenuto

We have written about half dollars in these pages before, specifically about putting together some kind of collection of proofs. To assemble something of decent size and to do it on a budget, we had to focus on proof Kennedy halves. But what might be in the realm of possibility if we expand our view to all the fifty-cent pieces our nation has produced, and we simply try to balance the best against the best priced? What might we be able to gather up, and just how much will we be able to get without steam ironing our wallets into complete and total flatness?

The Kennedys first

Perhaps obviously, the first place to look when thinking about good looking half dollars that do not cost all that much is the Kennedy series. Since 1992 there have been proofs made with the traditional 90% silver composition, but exclusively for the proof sets marketed to collectors. None are all that expensive, and we might even be able to find some certified piece in the grade that means technical perfection, the PF-70.

If we want a fifty-cent piece that sports President Kennedy's face but that has more history to it, the year to look at is 1964. The uppermost flakes of the upper crust are expensive here, but a piece in a grade like PF-67 will cost less than \$50. That's not bad at all.

Franklin

The modern proof program got up and running at the Philadelphia Mint back in 1950, with what might now be considered a modest mintage. The year 1957 saw the one million proof set mark surpassed, which means this year ought to have proofs common enough that they won't break the bank. It looks like \$80 - \$100 might net us a truly beautiful piece. So far, so good.

Continued on next page

Walking Liberty

This might be the point at which the plot thickens, to steal a phrase from someone famous. There were proofs issued for the Walking Liberty half dollars from 1936 to 1942, always in rather small amounts. If we add to that the serious love affair that collectors seem to have for this series, it doesn't take the proverbial rocket scientist to know that the prices ought to start going up. But we have just said we are looking both for great coins and great prices, which might take us away from the proofs. Right now it appears that if we are lucky we might be able to land a proof Walking Liberty half for about \$400 – if we're lucky. That's not an over-the-moon price, but let's explore a bit more.

The first year among the Walking Liberty half dollars that saw over 10 million minted was way back in 1917. It's a common date within the series, and for \$100 we could get one in a condition such as AU-50. But the two highest mintages in the series are the 1942 and the 1943, each with about five times the just-mentioned number. And those high mint-

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NENA's 2020 Convention Medal was designed by Donat Charron. The medal celebrates the 400th, Anniversary of the Mayflower and the landing of the Pilgrims in New England.

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My Pet Coins

By: Eric Hildebrandt

There are many ways to collect coins: Country, Fabric (composition material, such as copper, nickel, silver...), denomination, or date. Any sort of combination of material can form a “proper” collection for you—there is no “right” way to form a collection. Although, forming a group of material that “tells a story” in its ensemble is what numismatics—the story of mankind’s approach to money, is about.

So, given that your collection has many items, what do I consider to be a “pet” coin? To me, it is a certain coin in a particular series that “stands out in desirability”, either as a “sleeper” (underpriced), or currently un-appreciated for its historical importance. In addition, I can’t seem to get enough of them, whereas I usually only have one (or maybe two) specimens of “identical” coins.

I will limit this article to U.S. coins, and to those that are “modern” (after 1834). I choose 1834 since that is when the gold coins of the U.S. were reduced in weight to reflect the “true” dollar value of a given weight of gold, as understood by the international consensus. There is also the complication of the bi-metallic Silver/Gold standard that prevailed world-wide at this time; but a complete discussion of this aspect is for another time. Just about all pre-1834 coins I would collect to no end.

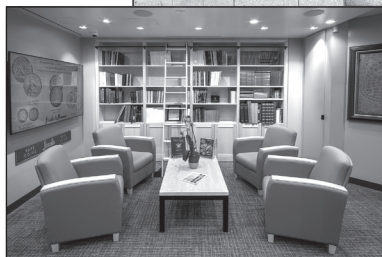
While I would like to have as many 1793 and 1794 cents, 1795 Half-Eagles, 1796 “whatever” as I could, my “price level” of affordable spending simply does not allow this! Not everyone can have the fortune of such legendary collectors as H.R. Green, Brand, Parmelee, Eliasberg, Bass, etc. But not to worry! Every coin has a story, and some of the least expensive coins are of greatest historical importance. One can form a fascinating collection “on a shoe-string”.

Every U.S. collector has some One Cent coins (or should!). The Large Cents I will discuss in a later article, as the focus of this article will be on the more affordable “pets” of mine. First on the list is the Flying Eagle Cent of 1858 (Large Letters). I have seen many “Small Letters”, but relatively few of the Large. I do not know why, and the price guides value them slightly lower in price. Any why, the design is one of the best, and look for a well struck specimen, focusing on the Eagle’s neck and breast feathers. This 12% nickel, 88% copper fabric was new to the mint, and they had a very difficult time manufacturing the coin: weak strikes, laminations, die cracks, and planchet cracks abound. This is about the only reason I can

Continued on pae 49

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Stack's Bowers Galleries is thrilled to announce the opening of their new flagship gallery at 470 Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. Just down the block from their historic West 57th Street store, the new Park Avenue gallery will serve as the East Coast's premier numismatic destination for a new generation of collectors. With modern, spacious, and secure facilities, this gallery will offer the firm's entire range of services covering all manner of numismatics, appraisals, gold and silver bullion and retail sales, and auction expertise. Collectors can browse coins and paper money available for direct purchase, as well as view auction highlights on display. Meeting space is provided for private consultations and public lot viewing will be available for the firm's auction sales. Located at street-level along one of New York's most iconic thoroughfares, the new space at 470 Park Avenue is open and inviting all collectors. Appointments are recommended, though walk-in consultations will be accommodated pursuant to local COVID-19 guidelines. Contact the Stack's Bowers Galleries New York team at 800-566-2580 or NYC@StacksBowers.com to setup an appointment.

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Norse-American Medal 1925

By: Peter Jones



Background

The usual classical commemorative collection is a type collection of silver, with or without gold coins. However other coins and one medal can also be considered in the series, and I start with the 1925 Norse American Medal.

The coin.

The obverse shows a facing Viking chieftain coming ashore on a beach (presumably Leif Ericson to Vinland around 1000 CE). He is in full battle regalia except that they did not actually wear horned helmets in battle; they were just ceremonial (some say Viking never wore horned helmets). Some Norse-Americans objected to the drawings of the design published in the Minneapolis Journal in March 1925, saying it implied that Norwegian-Americans still dressed like that! Above is the legend NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL. The date 1825 is to the left, and the date 1925 to the right of Ericson.

The reverse shows a Viking ship with full crew at sea. The inscription is AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND BELOW A•D•1000. To the left of the helm is OPUS FRASER (the work of James Earle Fraser). The ship is moving to the right with the wind coming from the left.

Continued on next page

Interestingly the event they were celebrating (the 1825 arrival of Restauration, the ship the Norwegians came over in) does not feature on the medal. Instead the medal romanticized Leif Ericson and the old Viking ship to stimulate Norse-American ethnic pride. Of course it also sends an important message: The Norse were probably the first Europeans to arrive in North America in 1000 CE in Vinland, in present-day Newfoundland, the St. Lawrence Gulf and New Brunswick. There is legend that an Irish monk, Saint Brendan of Clonfert sailed to America in the sixth century.



Recreated Viking longhouse, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Newfoundland

Continued on next page

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Confederate Reverse Continued

Now at last we come to the 1961 NENA medal with the Confederate Reverse. Design details are as follows:

Obv: Official NENA emblem

Rev: Design based on Confederate half dollar of 1861 with SPRINGFIELD, MASS.1961 added below.

Size: 31mm diameter Made by: The Robbins Company, Attleboro, MA Designed by: Henry Evanson

Notes: The polished sterling pieces were produced after the convention and may be identified by brilliant polished highlights and the incuse “STERLING” punch which was placed on an angle under Cape Cod on the obverse. This punch appears level and to the right of Cape Cod on the first striking.

There were many “trial” pieces struck in various metals, none of which were official issues. Polished gold, oxidized silver plate and aluminum are known.(6)

The original mintages and prices from 1961 are as follows.

. Cat. No.	Metal	Quantity	Issue Price
NENA61-1A	Gold Plate	50	\$5.00
NENA61-1B	Sterling	100	\$2.50
NENA61-1C	Polished Sterling		\$3.00
NENA61-1D	Nickel alloy	750	\$1.00
NENA61-1E	Oxidized Copper	250	\$1.00(6)

The Nickel alloy is the most common and is deceptively light. Normally any plating that NENA did at the time was done over bronze, but since no bronze medals were produced for 1961, perhaps the nickel alloy was used as it is the most common.(6)

With silver reaching all time highs twice (1979-1980 and 2011) some of the silver medals may have been melted. Some of the base metal specimens may have been lost to time as well.

This design was undoubtedly inspired by the one-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War and the historic numismatic significance of the Confederate Half Dollar Reverse. The nickel version is available from local dealers and certain NENA representatives, the other versions may be somewhat more difficult to locate. Happy hunting. 🦉



Photo of Gokstad Viking ship at Chicago World's Columbian Exposition 1893. This was used by James Earle Fraser to sculpt the medal's reverse.

Introducing the coin.

Interestingly, of the five commemorative coin books in the reference section, only *Swiatek's Commemorative Coins of the US*, discusses the Norse medal.

US Congressional Representative from Minnesota, Ole Juulson Kvale, was a Lutheran minister and proud Norse-American, and was son of Norwegian immigrants. He wanted to celebrate Norse heritage, and also happened to be on the Coinage, Weights and Measures Committee of the House. He asked the Treasury Department about a commemorative coin. They said they would oppose it. The reason for this was that in 1924 the Huguenot-Walloon commemorative half dollar, was widely seen as Protestant propaganda contradicting the separation of Church and State. They did not want anything to do with any more religious statements on US coins.

Kvale met with the Treasury Department and with Mint Director, Mary O'Reilly, who responded to his suggestion of a medal instead, but said a small medal would be too close to a half or quarter dollar and might be confused with change. Kvale's son Paul suggested an octagonal medal, which suited everyone.

Continued on next page

Kvale introduced a bill on February 4th, 1925, which became an Act March 2nd, which specified not more than 40,000 medals. The Norse-American Commission wanted to celebrate the centennial of the arrival of Restauration, the ship that first brought a group of Norwegian immigrants to America in 1825. Kvale wanted Borglum to sculpt the models, but Borglum was too busy so Kvale chose James Earle Fraser who was paid \$1,500. The models were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) on 15th April, except they suggested removing a “the” on the inscription.

The centennial was celebrated June 6th to 9th, 1925, in the Minnesota State fairgrounds. Their slogan was “The Norsemen are coming!” It was attended by President Coolidge, who gave the usual speeches. There was some sensitivity around the issue. The Norse-Americans had been accused of being anti-war during the First World War, and this damaged their civic pride, which Kvale was very keen to repair.

Six thousand thin octagonal medals (1.6mm, weighing 12.40 grams) were struck from May 21st to 23rd. Anthony Swiatek theorizes the Commission may have been dissatisfied with the thin medals or saw an opportunity to sell two varieties, hence switching production to thick medals. The thin medals sold for perhaps \$1.75 each.

At any case, the Mint then struck 33,750 thick octagonal medals (2mm, weighing 19.57 grams) from May 29th to June 13th. The Norse-American Commission could not sell all of these so 2,000 were returned to the Norse-American Commission treasurer, it is not known if he sent these to the mint for re-melting. These sold for \$1.25 each.



Ole Juulson Kvale

On June 3rd to 4th, the Mint struck 100 gold matte proof medals of which 47 were later re-melted. These sold for \$20 each.

The thin medals cost the Norse-American Commission 30¢ each, the thick 45¢ each, and the gold \$10.14 each, and of course the models from Fraser cost \$1,500. Profits went to the Centennial. The medals were sent to the Fourth National Bank of Philadelphia and all sold by mail order, none were sold in person or at the Centennial Fair in June.

During the advertising the Norse-American Commission had stated that this was the only medal authorized by Congress. However, in October Mint Director Robert Grant told Kvale that in fact the 1876 In-

Continued on next page

dependence Centennial Exposition was the first medal to be legislated by Congress, and it came in several different sizes. This got Kvale thinking: we need a new three-inch medal for display purposes like museums.

He told J.A. Holvik, secretary of the Norse-American Commission. Holvik, a professor, was vehemently against it but was outvoted by everyone else on the Commission. Accordingly, they ordered 50 three-inch medals. In December, 75 three-inch medals were struck in copper (presumably the extra 25 were because 30 were reserved to be mailed to VIPs including President Coolidge). For reasons known only to Kvale these were immediately silver plated as soon as they left the mint (perhaps he thought silver looked classier than bronze).



1st Congressionally authorized medal - 1876 Centennial of American Independence.

The Restauration.

On July 4th, 1825, the Restauration, a sloop built in 1801, left Stavanger, Norway. Lars Larsen led the expedition of 52 people on board. Most were Quakers. They first anchored off an English coastal village where they traded rum for goods. Off the Madeira Islands they found a cask of fine madeira wine floating in the water, which they much enjoyed.

They arrived in New York City October 9th. Port authorities seized the ship because the maximum allowed occupancy for its size was 21! The captain, L.O. Helland, was arrested, the ship impounded and a fine levied. They should have thrown the extra people overboard before they arrived! As no one spoke English, President Quincy Adams pardoned them. Cleng Peerson, a Norwegian, who at the Quakers' request had gone to America in 1821 as an advance person, met them

With their ship returned to them, they sailed up the Hudson River to the Rochester area where they settled on land they had bought in Ken-

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The Best Half Dollars Continued

ages mean we can snag one of these dates for that \$100 in a grade such as MS-65. Once again, that's not bad.

Barbers

Moving back to the Barber series, these half dollars had plenty of good mintages in their run between 1892 and 1915. And yes, there were proofs made during those years as well, although not in quantities anywhere near what would come later. Since any proof sporting Mr. Barber's design on the obverse will cost over \$1K, let's see what the circulating coins might offer. A look through any of the major price lists indicate we'll have to spend about \$550 for a piece in MS-60. That still seems a bit steep. If we want to get a lot closer to the \$100 price tag we just mentioned, we'll have to step down to one of the common dates or mint marks in a grade like VF-20.

Before we go onward and backwards, let's take a moment and think about what a VF-20 Barber half dollar is going to look like. The collecting community right now seems to be locked in a permanent embrace with mint state coins, and with the allure of them. But a classic or historic piece of United States silver can still look good and have a bit of wear on it. Any VF coin is still going to have good detail on it, and with luck will not have any problems or blemishes. If we insist on that MS-60 example, we'll have to accept the price that goes with it. But the common dates as VF-20 coins may be just fine.

Seated Liberty

Moving back even farther, we get to the artistry of Mr. Christian Gobrecht, and the Seated Liberty design that graced our half dollars from 1839 all the way to 1891. In this wide swath of years there were definitely some high mintages, which means there might be some opportunities for good buys. There are also some very lean years, which means those prices will be sky high.

The good news is that among the Seated Liberty halves we might be able to get one as old as 1854 for about \$100 in that VF-20 condition. There is never going to be a mint state example we can gather up for less than \$450 or so. But plenty of dates scattered from 1854 to 1877 cost about \$100 in VF-20. That includes the 'S' mint marks from 1875, and 1876, and even 1877.

Capped Bust

For those of us who have never really looked at the Seated Liberty coinage, be it half dollars or other denominations, it might seem like stepping back to the Capped Bust series, which ran from 1807 to

1839, is just plain ludicrous. After all, these are a truly classic series, and couldn't have been minted in large quantities. Or could they?

It's worth keeping in mind that the young United States Mint didn't produce any silver dollars at all from sometime in 1804 until 1836. That meant that the Capped Bust half dollars were the big cats as far as silver coins went. And while, yes, the earliest dates can be expensive, there were multiple millions of them produced for several years as the series matured. This means several of the common dates are available for about \$125 in VF-20, or \$350 in a grade as high as AU-50. A full date run might become expensive; but there is no reason we can't add a Capped Bust half to a collection of fifty-cent pieces, and do it in some affordable manner

Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle and before

When we step back to the Draped Bust and the Flowing Hair half dollars, we get to a place where the prices can be very accurately described as ludicrous. The apparently permanent collector love affair with the earliest coins of a young United States means virtually all of these halves are expensive, even in low grades. So, that's where the journey ends – but what a journey! Good luck to all of us who choose to go for the best halves we can get at the best prices we can get. 🐾

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Norse-American Medal Continued

dall, Orleans County, about 35 miles northwest of Rochester, and close to Lake Ontario.

A replica of the Restauration was built in Finnøy, Norway 2010 and is now used for education and charters today in Rogaland, Norway. I have not been able to find a picture of the ship on the internet.



US Postage stamps with engraving of Restauration and Viking ship. Note American flag on right of Viking ship!

There were two commemorative stamps - a two-cent stamp for standard US domestic letters, and a five-cent stamp to for overseas letters. No authentic image of what the Restauration looked like could be found. The image for the 2 cent stamp was taken from a Norwegian magazine clipping purporting to be a sister ship of the Restauration. No one knows who decided to place a Viking ship on the 5 cent stamp. It seems there was no request from the officials of the Norse-American Centennial Committee or by the US Post Office Dept. Apparently the decision was made internally by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It was unusual as the Centennial Celebration had nothing to do with Vikings or with Leif Ericsson ca. 1000 AD. However, it does parallel the imagery on the medal.



Replica of Restauration being built in Norway.

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Welcome to the, "Junk Box Reporter" a column reserved for brief reports of unusual finds by members in those unusual places like old desk drawers, in walls of renovated rooms, at flea markets, coin machine rejects slots., dealer's junk boxes, etc.

Submit your brief write up about and scan (if possible) of the object and the place or how it was found, an estimated value if possible and other highlights about the find including your name or just initials if you wish to remain anonymous to: John Ferreri P.O. Box 33 Storrs, CT 06268.

"JBR" briefs do not qualify for dues reduction as do submitted articles. Some "JBR" briefs may be edited to conform with the purpose of the column. Tell us about your experience! We want to hear from you!

It Pays to Look Closely...

Lot 25755 of the 2003 CAA/Heritage sale in St Louis was a small

cardboard chit good for at two different establishments, listed under "Boston, MA-Frost & Armstrong, 50c. It did not interest me - until I saw on the illustration that the second establishment was for "S. F. Twichell, Framingham". At the bottom it read 186 , suggesting that the chit had been intended for



use sometime in the 1860's, but never put to use.

i was born and raised in Framingham, my family having moved there in 1882 or so, and long interested in the town's history and my family involvement. The name "Twichell" was new to me, as was the term Refreshment Rooms, though this is easily surmised. But where might they have been?

I could not find my Bible, "Temple's History of Framingham" so turned to Fred Wallace, Town (now City) Historian at the Framingham History Center for help:

Simeon F. Twichell came to Framingham in 1854 to take over

Continued on next page

the management of the old Clark's Hotel in South Framingham across from the train station; he – as inn keeper - and his family lived there for about 20 years. It is highly likely that the REFRESHMENT ROOMS titled on the chit were operated in the hotel.

Twichell retired to become a Deputy Sheriff, dying in 1879; the hotel is long gone. The coupon, once good for 50c, may be unique, and is not represented in the History Center collection – yet! *Arthur Fitts*

A Sight Unseen Junk Box Deal

In this era of covid 19, it has been very difficult to indulge in my favorite hobby, numismatics. I've only purchased coins by mail from dealers a few times in my life, sometimes a happy experience, sometimes not. On the other hand, I've lost track of my purchases at coin shows, club meetings and dealer's shops all of which are currently off limits or for the most part just not happening.

On a whim, I decided to contact my favorite dealer, whom I consider a friend beyond a business relationship, to see if he had some odds and ends of foreign coins for sale. Bob Moffatt got back to me with a note about a lot of coins \$7, a packet of nice WW2 era paper money, \$3, and a cased complete set of obsolete Greek coins from 1992, \$3. The whole deal was \$20 including postage. Sold!

The bulk lot weighed 22 oz. and consisted of 104 coins, mostly cupronickel, copper, bronze/brass some with magnesium alloyed with just a few aluminum and zinc pieces. France was the major nation represented, 26 coins. Other than 2 worn out Napoleon III copper pieces nothing until 1 Chamber of Commerce 2 francs of 1925. It was surprising nothing from the pre WW1 and the war years. A couple of Vichy pieces 1943-45 appeared, a 50 Franc inflation money of 1951. The 1960's and 70's were well represented with 20 centimes, 1/2 and 1 franc pieces, all demonetized with the advent of the euro.

A lot like this should have had a fair number of German coins. The Kaiser's Germany Contributed a 10 pfennig 1898 and Nazi Germany 2 wretched zinc coins from the 1940's. Postwar Germany was represented by a 1 mark of 1950 and 10 pfennig of 1991. These coins can still be exchanged in Germany.

Great Britain was the other major selection of coins in this lot, 20 coins including a Victoria penny 1900, Old Head, 1930 George V, 1937 George VI as well as 3 pence 6 pence, shillings and florins of George VI and Elizabeth, now all obsolete. There were also 2, 5, and 10 new penny pieces from the currency reform of 1971.

Mexico, and Hong Kong were equally represented in the lot which was surprising. Each had 9 coins. Mexico was mostly beat cupronickel inflation pieces from around 1980. These often appear in large numbers in poundage. Hong Kong had 3 copper nickel coins of Elizabeth 2 including two \$1 and a 10 cents, cupronickel and bronze. The rest from Hong

Continued on next page

Junk Box Reporter continued

Kong were \$1 and \$2 pieces from the early 1990's under the new Communist rule and are current money.

Ireland was also decently represented, , 7 coins, a lovely EF penny of 1952 and new pence from 1969-1970 including 1 penny, 2 pence, 10 pence and 50 pence. Mostly copper nickel and all current money (about \$1.)

Coins that are still current money appeared and included a Swiss 1 franc (over a dollar!) and Japan 10, 50 , and 100 yen (about \$1.50.) It was interesting to see a 2 francs of Belgium from 1944 which was allied currency made using 1943 zinc coated steel planchets in the United States. It was a 1 year issue and was likely as popular with the locals as the Nazi issued zinc junk coins.

A couple of impressive 25 and 50 peseta coins of cupronickel bearing Franco's portrait were included. Italy contributed 10, 20, 50 lire from the 1950's. I am always impressed by the stainless steel 50 and 100 lire coins of Italy. It is a tribute to their minting technology to be able to make lovely coins from such tough, hard metal.

Minor coins, one to a few, appeared from Denmark, E . Germany, Austria , and the Netherlands from the 1960's to 1970's and all demonetized and driven out of circulation by the Euro of the European Union. In fact most of the coins in this lot are Euro victims.

Finally, there are the strays: Jamaica 1 cent 1968 worth more as scrap than money, a battered aluminum 5 piastres , United Arab Republic, more scrap and a reminder of a union that fell apart between Egypt and Syria. Canada 1 large cent 1918 in fine and collectible. And finally 3 South African coins 20 cents and 1 cent from the 1960's-1970's and still current money.

I will pick out a few, especially the EF Irish penny of 1952. The rest will go into hand made leather miner's treasure bags for my grandsons, nieces and nephews which may lead them to Happy Collecting. *F. A. Liberator*

It is with great regret and sadness that I inform you of the death of our dear friend and colleague, David K. Zuker. David passed away after a long battle with cancer on October 10, 2020. He was laid to rest on October 13, 2020 in New York.

David enthralled us with his stimulating and scholarly presentations on our favorite topic, Numismatics; he will be sorely missed. Cards of condolences may be sent in care of Yale Lansky at 28 Faneuil Road, Waltham, MA. 02452.

Donations in his memory can be made to:

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...AND WHO ARE THEY?

By: Preston Pratola

Do the names William H. Woodin, Fred M. Vinson and Robert B. Anderson mean anything to you? If you are an elderly gentleman like myself, you have periodically seen these names every day over your lifetime. The more you saw them, the happier you became. Oddly enough these men have something in common. A short history of each man might help you recognize their common bond. Let's start with William H Woodin. Woodin was born May 27, 1868 and eventually his company became the largest builders of railroad cars. He helped F.D.R. with major decisions which helped Roosevelt bring the United States out of the Great Depression. Woodin was instrumental in the decision to purchase all the gold that was privately owned. He was an avid coin collector and when the gold was purchased from private hands, he made certain that an exception was made for "rare or unusual" coins.

Fred M Vinson was born January 22, 1890 in Louisa, Kentucky. By trade he was an attorney and a great friend to Harry S. Truman. This friendship lasted a lifetime and during that time he became a close advisor, confidant, and card player with Truman. He worked with Truman to negotiate the payment of the British loan of 1946, called the Lend-Lease agreement for the military aid given to the allies during World War II. Truman nominated him on June 6, 1946, to the Chief Justice seat on the Supreme Court. As of 2020, Vinson was the last Chief Justice to be appointed by a Democratic President.

Finally, let's say a little about Robert B. Anderson. Anderson was born June 4, 1910 in Burleson, Texas. Like Vinson, Anderson was an attorney and a very close confidant to a president. This president was Dwight Eisenhower. Eisenhower thought him capable of being President himself. He was named as one of Eisenhower's leading choices to be his running mate in 1956. Actually, Eisenhower offered Vice President Richard Nixon the post of Secretary of Defense. Nixon opted to remain on the ticket and the rest is history. The end of Anderson's life was quite tragic. He was hospitalized several times for alcoholism. The bank he owned was laundering large amounts of cash for drug traffickers. In 1987, Anderson pleaded guilt to tax evasion and violations of bank laws. He was disbarred and sentenced to prison.

Have you figured out what they have in common? If you have not, this will surely help.

NAME	DATE OF SERVICE	PRESIDENT
William H. Woodin	3/4/33-12/31/33	F.D.R.
Fred M. Vinson	7/23/45-6/23/46	Truman
Robert B. Anderson	7/29/57-1/20/61	Eisenhower

These men were all Secretary of the Treasury. Their names appeared on some issues of United States currency during the 1928-1957 years.

Top: Series 1928-D \$5.00 Federal Reserve Note which incidentally is

Three notes representative of three different acts of congress showing the signatures of the three different Secretary of the Treasury mentioned above.



Series 1928-D \$5.00 Federal Reserve Note which incidentally is the rarest and most expensive of all the regular issue Federal Reserve Notes 1928 to date. The Secretary's (William Woodin) signature is at the lower right. Unlike coins, U.S. paper money issues are not numbered each year. The series may change when there is a design change or signature change. It is possible that a certain series date could remain in force for many years before a change is necessitated.




Series 1928-E \$2.00 United States Note showing the signature of Fred Vinson at the lower right.

Continued on next page



Series 1957 \$1.00 Silver Certificate. This particular note is happens to show an error. On close examination you will see that the two serial numbers are not the same. This was caused by a mechanical malfunction of the numbering machine. Robert Anderson's signature is at the lower right.

As a side note, there was only one Secretary of the Treasury whose name appeared only on the one dollars bill. His name was Joseph W. Barr and he served from 12/21/68-1/20/69. 

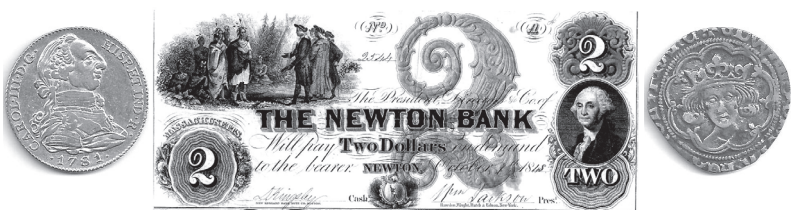
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76th Nena Convention and Show Report

On Saturday October 3rd, 2020 the New England Numismatic Association held their 76th, Convention in conjunction with the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions our only presence was the Club Table on Friday and Saturday where we greeted our members and visitors and provided updated information on our activities, medals and dues. Several other clubs were also present with a club table including the Nashua Coin Club; Liberty Seated Collectors Club and EAC, Early American Coppers. The show was well attended with the dealers reporting that the business activity was strong.

We would like to thank those that helped make this a successful event including our board, committees, volunteers and members; Ernie Botte and EBW Promotions for providing the club tables and running an outstanding show.

Thank You! 📷



Bob Fritsch and Fred Clark manning the Nashua Coin Club table.



Jen Reynolds and Donat Charron manning the Nena Club table.

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My Pet Coins Continued

think of for having such a short-lived series, with its quick replacement with the “Indian Head” Cents—a nice design, but not as “artistic” as the Flying Eagle. The heavy, thick planchet also makes a pleasing form.

Next are Lincoln Cents of 1911-D. First Denver issue, and a great value, as most collectors focus on the San Francisco issues. Although a very favorite Lincoln of mine is the 1933-D. A “semi-key”, but a nice Unc. in its “orangey-red” mint state is a beauty. 1933 is also one of my “pet” years, as only cents, half dollars, and \$10 Eagles were officially issued. Please, not the time to discuss the “ever-elusive” 1933 \$20 Double Eagle. Also, not the time to elaborate on the horrible world events of 1933, but these are the historical “facts” that make artifacts interesting. Do watch out for alterations made by “chasing” a 1938 cent, although this type of fraud is something that I have thankfully not yet encountered.

The “Buffalo” (actually a Bison) nickel is a superb design, and the 1938-D is probably the best made of them all. It seems as though the Denver mint knew they were making the last of them and went all out in producing an extremely well struck and lustrous coin.

The Jefferson War Nickels are another special series for me, and for now I will only mention how special the pastel toning of an “original skin” coin can be.

The 1916 dime is slightly different in the rims, field basining, and luster from those of 1918 and later. They have more of a “matte” luster, so they are softer (and “quieter”) in appearance. Very affordable and attractive. The Roosevelt dimes of 1946 come in two varieties, differing slightly in the relative position of the word “LIBERTY”, and Roosevelt’s head. I believe the “S” mint version of the Type 1 is quite elusive. See Walter Breen’s “Encyclopedia” for more details. This is one of the wonderful things about the hobby: new varieties of “common” series are being discovered all the time by sharp-eyed and observant students. I would focus on the first and second years of a series issue, as this is where the mint often makes minor changes in design, sometimes extremely subtle.

Any Standing Liberty Quarter with full frosty luster, especially on Liberty’s knee is a delight. Look for a good strike, focusing on the total coin and not just the head, as weakness is often found on the shield rivets, eagle feathers, etc. I do avoid the “concave spoon head” strikes, by am not a fanatic on trying to get a specimen with “every hair in place”. Truly fully struck head and hair detailed specimens are extremely rare, and usually priced accordingly. Of course, the 1917 Type I is the “go to” coin for the type, but my pet is the 1927-S in the middle-circulated grades (try for a nice Fine). A very undervalued coin, although since it is after 1924, you can read the date! This is why it is probably available and priced accordingly. Also, over-looked for its rarity, the 1926-S in “Full-Head” Uncirculated is extremely elusive, it took me about 5 years to even find one.

Walking Liberty Half Dollars are another “can’t go wrong” series. My favorite years are 1916, as they are also slightly different from the rest, similar to the dime of the same year. You will have to be very patient here

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to get an original, well struck truly uncirculated specimen. It took me about 8 years to find one! Another year that I can't get enough of is the 1933-S. This one should come very well struck, one of the few Walker's where Liberty's left fingers are all present. Head and Hair detail should be full. They are also very frosty and flashy. Its as though San Francisco went all out to show how well it could make a coin. It can often have (for circulated specimens) a very pleasing dark (but muted) black color.

The Kennedy Half Dollar of 1969-D is the last of the "precious metal" regular issue coins of the United States. Wow! Even at only an over-all 40% Silver content, the "sandwich" composition chosen to make the illusion of a higher fineness coin only adds to its appeal. A "must have" for just about anyone.

For Silver Dollars, the Peace Dollar of 1934 or 1935 (any mint) is for me. Look for a dazlingspecimen, with all the goodies, as they are out there. I have a personal story to tell some day as to why I do not care to look at another Morgan Dollar ever again! Sorry to have to write this about the extremely popular issue.

For the gold series, any "Indian" Quarter Eagle or Half Eagle is a must. My last pet is the 1908-D, "No-Motto" \$10 Eagle. It can come with an orange-like color and surface that is very appealing. Also, the lack of the motto gives the reverse a pleasing "negative space" (large areas of flat field) appearance. Again, strike here is an issue, and getting the eagle's shoulder feather's full is a special coin, indeed.

So, there they are, affordable (as much as it can be!), yet interesting from a historical and artistic point of view, ever-popular works of American Art. I hope you enjoy them as I do. 🍷

NENA NEWS

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